

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 718  
By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to designate McMinnville as "The Photography  
Capital of Tennessee".

WHEREAS, the cities and towns of Tennessee lie scattered across the state's natural tapestry like so many fine jewels, each captivating the eye with its own particular beauty; and

WHEREAS, each town, from tiny burg to giant metropolis, mountain hamlet to riverside borough, has its own history, a flavorful tale it offers to denizen and visitor alike; and

WHEREAS, these histories help to describe and define Tennesseans, offering tethers to link past and future and providing a deeper understanding of the places we call home; and

WHEREAS, the city of McMinnville has a particularly proud history which is tied closely to the earliest days of photography, and several of its citizens have made significant contributions to the field; and

WHEREAS, one of those McMinnvillians was William Spencer "Dad" Lively, a world-renowned photographer whose dedication to the art served to significantly propel it into the modern age; and

WHEREAS, W.S. Lively, born in McMinnville in 1855, established a photographic studio on the top floor of the Lively family furniture store before founding the Kentucky-Tennessee Association in 1900; his talent developed rapidly and his ability with a camera became widespread knowledge; and

WHEREAS, with the photography world coming to view him as a genius, Mr. Lively established the Southern School of Photography in 1904. The School, which was open for twenty-five years before being destroyed by fire, emerged as an enormously influential educational endeavor which advanced the art and science of photography by leaps and bounds; and

WHEREAS, in 1944, *TIME* magazine noted the passing of W.S. Lively, who was known throughout the photography world as the "Dean of American Photographers"; and

WHEREAS, while W.S. Lively, whose works hang in the Smithsonian Institution and the Eastman Museum, made the largest impact on the photography world, many other notable photographers have operated in McMinnville, including J. Fletch Woodward, C.W. Prior, Anson Trail, Althea Brady, Willie Hughes, and Steamboat Cassidy; and

WHEREAS, with two museums dedicated to photography and its history in and impact on McMinnville and a third in its planning stages, the people of McMinnville proudly exhibit the rich tradition of their city's past; and

WHEREAS, it is proper that this General Assembly recognize any city whose history has shaped the development of an art form; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this Body is proud to designate the city of McMinnville, in honor of W.S. Lively and the Southern School of Photography, as "The Photography Capital of Tennessee."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.